

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /115 W

----- 038619

P R 261120 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0797

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7266

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINTMILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 26, 1973 MR- IV

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON 26 APR 73. REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE

CAN THO 0242

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGSKK MILI, MOPS, PINT, CA, CB, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 26, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR IV ON APRIL 25 PERCOLATED AT THE SAME RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF INTENSITY AS OF TUESDAY. THE KHANG HUNG ICCS TEAM RESPONDED QUICKLY TO A GVN REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGED VC/ NVA INCIDENT. ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ANOTHER NVA REGIMENT MOVING TOWARD HONG NGU. THE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE CHIEF SPECULATED THAT THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN HONG NGU IS DESIGNED TO TEST AMERICAN WILL TO ENFORCE THE CEASEFIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN MR IV REMAINED ON APRIL 25 TH ABOUT THE SAME AS ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE GVN REPORTED THIRTY- SIX CC/ NVA- INITIATED INCIDENTS: 3 GROUND  
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ATTACKS, 4 INFILTRATIONS, 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 11 OTHER MINOR HARASSMENTS AND TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE. THE MOST VIOLENCE OCCURRED, AS USUAL, IN CHUONG THIEN, WITH 10 REPORTED INCIDENTS, AND DINH TUONG, WITH 5. THE RVNAF CARRIED OUT 10 SECURITY OPERATIONS. CASUALTIES FOR THE DAY TOTALED 14 RVNAF KILLED AND 88 WOUNDED, AND 30 VC/NVA KILLED AND 1 CAPTURED.

3. ICCS: (A) THE KHANG HUNG ICCS MOVED AT AN IMPRESSIVE SPEED ON APRIL 25 TO INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGED VC-INITIATED INCIDENT IN MY XUYEN DISTRICT OF BA XUYEN PROVINCE. THE VC REPORTEDLY ATTACHED A PSDF/PF TEAM ON HAMLET GUARD DUTY AT 2300 HOURS ON APRIL 24. TWO PSDF AND TWO CIVILIANS WERE KIA AND ONE PSDF, TWO PF, AND ONE CIVILIAN WERE WIA. AT 1030 HOURS THE NEXT MORNING, THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE GVN/JMC FORMALLY REQUESTED AN INVESTIGATION, AND WITHIN THE HOUR THE ICCS TEAM WAS EN ROUTE TO THE INCIDENT SITE. THE VICE CONSUL IN BA XUYEN REPORTED THAT THBFCOMMUNIST ICCS MEMBERS WERE MOST COOPERATIVE. NO ICCS REPORT HAS BEEN FILED YET. (B) COL. MARTOMAN, AN INDONESIAN MEMBER OF THE ICCS REGION VI TEAM, TOLD A MY THO VICE CONSUL YESTERDAY THAT HIS TEAM RECEIVED ORDERS FROM ICCS SAIGON TO BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE FULL SCALE INVESTIGATIONS IN HONG NGU THE WEEK OF APRIL 30- MAY 5.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY: ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THAT THE NVA 271 ST REGIMENT IS ENROUTE TO THE HONG NGU AREA FROM TONG LE CHAN VIA HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. IF TRUE, THE VC/ NVA SOON WILL HAVE FOUR MAIN FORCE INFANTRY REGIMENTS DEPLOYED AGAINST FRIENDLY FORCES IN HONG NGU DISTRICT. AMERICAN SOURCES IN CAN THO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF THE 271 ST IN HAU NGHIA, BUT DECLINE TO SPECULATE ON ITS POSSIBLE MOVEMENTS WITHOUT MORE INFORMATION.

5. GVN ACTIVITY: (A) THE VICE CONSUL IN SOC TRANG REPORTED THAT GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS LAST WEEK IN THE SPECIAL INTERPROVINCIAL TACTICAL ZONE PRODUCED FAVORABLE RESULTS. THREE OPERATIONS RESULTED IN ELEVEN VC KILLED, TWO VC CAMPS BROKEN UP, 400 KILOS OF RICE DESTROYED, AND WEAPONS, MUNITIONS, MEDICINE, SAMPANS, AND DOCUMENTS CAPTURED.

(B) COL. TRAN THANH NHIEU, KIEN PHONG PROVINCE CHIEF, TOLD A VICE CONSUL THAT VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN HONG NGU AND ELSEWHERE HAD TWO PURPOSES: (1) TO WREST AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE FROM THE GVN, BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES BEGIN SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS, AND (2) TO TEST THE WILL OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENFORCE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. IF THE UNITED STATES HAD SIGNED THE PARIS ACCORDS MERELY TO EXTRACT ITSELF FROM THE WAR, HE SAID, THE COMMUNISTS COULD VIOLATE THE CEASEFIRE WITH IMPUNITY. ALTHOUGH CONCERNED ABOUT DOVISH POLITICAL PRESSURE IN AMERICA, HE WAS

ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT NIXON' S BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS.  
BECAUSE OF HOSTILE WORLD PRESS OPINION, THE GVN COULD NOT ENTER  
CAMBODIA TO DEFEND ITSELF FROM COMMUNIST ATTACKS. IT WAS EASIER,  
HE OPINED, FOR GEEAT POWERS LIKE THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE SUCH  
ACTIONS.

BARNES UNQUOTE  
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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